

Music, A; Art, A. So my advice is, don't peak too early. *[Laughter]*

Here, I am with my fifth-grade science project. *[Laughter]* Built it myself. And it's still meeting our energy needs. *[Laughter]*

I went on to college and graduate school, but somehow, the press has gotten the wrong idea, that I was a smart aleck party guy. *[Laughter]* This is an unfair perception. See, in college, I actually did a lot of independent reading. *[Laughter]*

After graduation I joined the Texas Air National Guard. I'm the one who committed the State of Texas to defend Taiwan from attack. *[Laughter]* Speaking of pilots, I'm so proud and honored to welcome to our Nation's Capital, Lieutenant Shane Osborn and crewmember Lieutenant J.G. John Comerford. I hope you and your crew will be coming to the White House soon. I think you'll like it there. *[Laughter]* I know I've said this to you personally on the phone, but I'm proud to say it publicly, welcome back, Lieutenant.

Some people wondered—and I'm sure there might have been a few out here—how I would handle the recent incident in China. Truth is, I have long been a serious student of the Orient. *[Laughter]* My mom and dad, of course, were in China when Dad was the U.S. liaison there. People have asked me, "Is it difficult trying to follow in the footsteps of a man who was President, Vice President, U.N. Ambassador, a man who held so many other important jobs? Is it hard being such a man's son?" Not really. *[Laughter]*

Most people don't realize it, but Dad has had some tough times. *[Laughter]* Back in the fifties, he went through a period where he thought aliens were trying to contact him. *[Laughter]* So he built this contraption to receive their signals. *[Laughter]*

As for my mom, after bearing six children she herself became a bit stressed. *[Laughter]* She took to acting very strangely. *[Laughter]* For a while, she thought she was too tall and walked like this. *[Laughter]* As if that weren't strange enough, next she wrote a book with that damn, mangy, ill-tempered dog. *[Laughter]* I hated that dog. *[Laughter]* My mother treated the dog better than she treated me. *[Laughter]* She never helped me write my book. *[Laughter]*

I will say this, however, my mom always stuck up for us kids. Here's Mom replying to a reporter's question about something Barbra Streisand said recently. *[Laughter]*

Fortunately, I've got great brothers and a great sister. Some people have asked me, however, if the vote recount left any hard feelings between my brother Jeb and me? Not a bit. In fact, here's a picture of the Governor of Florida. *[Laughter]*

All this brings me to a serious point. *[Laughter]* Eventually, I met a woman named Laura Welch. She changed my life. She has given me as an adult what I enjoyed as a child, and that is a loving family. The defining moments in the Bush family are not when my father was elected President or when I was elected President. The defining moments have been family moments. Ladies and gentlemen, I've been blessed with a family that is full of love, and I pray the same for you.

Good evening.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:30 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to his parents, former First Lady Barbara Bush and former President George Bush, brothers Neil Bush, Marvin Bush, and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, sister, Dorothy Bush Koch; Arlene Dillon, president, White House Correspondents' Association; Assistant Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe; and entertainer Barbra Streisand.

## **Proclamation 7430—National Day of Prayer, 2001**

*April 27, 2001*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Turning to prayer in times of joy and celebration, strife and tragedy is an integral part of our national heritage. When the first settlers landed on the rocky shores of the New World, they celebrated with prayer, and the practice has continued through our history. In 1775, the Continental Congress asked the citizens of the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a Nation. General George Washington, encamped at Valley Forge, also sought God's guidance as Americans fought

for their independence. The faith of our Founding Fathers established the precedent that prayers and national days of prayer are an honored part of our American way of life.

Continuing in that tradition, many of the men and women who have served at the highest levels of our Nation also have turned to prayer seeking wisdom from the Almighty. President Lincoln, who proclaimed a day of “humiliation, fasting, and prayer” in 1863, once stated: “I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day.” Today, millions of Americans continue to hold dear that conviction President Lincoln so eloquently expressed. Gathering in churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and homes, we ask for strength, direction, and compassion for our neighbors and ourselves.

The theme of the 2001 National Day of Prayer is “One Nation Under God.” In a prayer written specially for the occasion, Americans are asked to pray for “a moral and spiritual renewal to help us meet the many problems we face.” Special observances are scheduled for all 50 States, with local volunteers planning a variety of activities including prayer breakfasts, concerts, rallies, and student gatherings. These events will bring people of all faiths together, each according to his or her own beliefs, to give thanks to the Almighty and to ask for strength and guidance.

The Congress, by Public Law 100–307, has called on our citizens to reaffirm the role of prayer in our society and to honor the religious diversity our freedom permits by recognizing annually a “National Day of Prayer.”

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 3, 2001, as a National Day of Prayer. I encourage the citizens of our Nation to pray each in his or her own manner, seeking God’s blessings on our families and government officials and personal renewal, moral awakening, and a new spirit of harmony across our land. I urge all Americans to join in ob-

serving this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:07 a.m., May 1, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 30, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 2.

### **Remarks at the First Hundred Days Congressional Luncheon**

*April 30, 2001*

Thank you all. Thank you for coming. I appreciate you bringing such nice weather. It’s good to see members of my Cabinet who are here. Mr. Secretary, thank you for being here.

Today marks our hundredth day of working together for the American people. We’ve had some good debates. We’ve made some good progress, and it looks like we’re going to pass some good law.

I’ve now met with most of you, and here’s what I think. I think America is lucky to have such distinguished citizens coming to Washington to represent them. I’ve been impressed by the caliber of the person; I’ve been impressed by the conviction that you brought to the Oval Office.

Oh, I know we always don’t agree. But we’re beginning to get a spirit here in Washington where we’re more agreeable, where we’re setting a different tone. So when the good folks of this country look at our Nation’s Capital, they see something they can be proud of.

I want to thank you all very much for your service to the country. I want to thank your families for the sacrifice they make. I also want to thank you for the constructive spirit in which we’ve conducted the people’s business. I know this: That whatever your views on a particular issue are, that we share a common goal, and that is to serve our country.